



## VECTOR HABITAT REMEDIATION PROGRAM CEQA and Regulatory Permitting

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How do I know if my project can rely on the Program EIR?**

A: Other than being within San Diego County, three qualifiers must be met:

1. SCOPE The project's activities must be consistent with the guidelines related to wetland and water quality treatment design, water management, and vegetation manipulation outlined in the *Key Concepts that Reduce Mosquito Production* section in Chapter 1 of the Program EIR.
2. IMPACTS All potential environmental impacts must be consistent with those analyzed in the Program EIR. If a project could have an impact that is more severe than those analyzed in the Program EIR, or if a new impact that was not analyzed in the Program EIR has the potential to occur, then the project cannot tier from the Program EIR.
3. MITIGATION All avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures included in the Program EIR must be implemented.

Links to the Program EIR and related documents are provided on the VHRP webpage listed below.

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/habitat\\_remediation.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/habitat_remediation.html)

**Q: How do I find out if I meet these three qualifiers?**

A: You must prepare an Environmental Review Checklist for Projects with Previously Approved CEQA Documents pursuant to Sections 15162 – 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines to demonstrate whether the project meets the three qualifiers. Vector Control Program staff can provide examples of proper documentation.

**Q: If my project meets these qualifiers then do I need to do any further CEQA review?**

A: Yes. Once you have determined through the Environmental Review Checklist for Projects with Previously Approved CEQA Documents that no new environmental document would be required, you must prepare an Addendum to the Program EIR. Vector Control Program staff can provide examples of proper documentation.

**Q: What do I do if my project does not meet the Program EIR qualifiers?**

A: The applicant is responsible for ensuring adequate CEQA review occurs and providing document as such to the Vector Control Program. If the project does not qualify for a CEQA Exemption listed in Sections 15260 – 15332 of the CEQA Guidelines, then an Environmental Initial Study must be prepared that will then determine what level of CEQA review is adequate for your project. Costs associated with CEQA compliance are eligible for reimbursement under the grant program.

***For questions, contact us at (858) 694-2888 or [vector@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:vector@sdcounty.ca.gov)***

**Q: What is the benefit of the “umbrella” permits?**

A: The County DEH obtained a Regional General Permit (RGP-82) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Programmatic Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 9), and a Master Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game. The intent of this umbrella permitting program is to streamline timelines and costs of obtaining regulatory permits for projects with minimal environmental impacts.

**Q: What conditions must my project meet to qualify for coverage under the umbrella permits?**

A: For a full listing of conditions and required avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures that must be included, you can find links to each umbrella permit on the VHRP webpage listed below. In addition, check the permit language to find out what report or design submittals the resource agencies require to consider the eligibility of your project.

[http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/habitat\\_remediation.html](http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/deh/pests/habitat_remediation.html)

Generally, your project:

- Cannot be located within Federal lands (including tribal lands and military installations).
- Must be located solely within the jurisdiction of the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (i.e. Region 9), which covers watersheds that flow west to the ocean.
- Cannot be located within the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission (i.e. within coastal zone as defined by Coastal Zone Management Act).
- Cannot be located directly adjacent to a project previously authorized under these permits.
- Cannot impact more than 0.10 acre and 300 linear feet of jurisdictional waters of the US.
- Must be constructed between September 16 – February 14 to avoid impacts to nesting birds.
- Cannot impact vernal complexes (including pools, swales, or road ruts), cismontane alkali marsh, salt marsh, brackish marsh.
- Cannot impact oak trees (no equipment allowed within drip line), or other native trees that have a diameter at breast height (DBH) of greater than 2 inches.
- Does not propose activities that include replacement or repairs to existing hardscape drainage facilities or expansion of such impervious facilities.
- Limits sediment removal for a project to less than 2,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment.
- Cannot impact threatened or endangered species, or adversely modify designated (or proposed) critical habitat.
- Ensure no net loss of jurisdictional resources in accordance with each of the permits (varies by habitat type, location of mitigation, habitat quality, etc.)

**Q: What do I do if my project impacts jurisdictional waters but is not eligible for the umbrella permits?**

A: You must obtain individual, project-specific permits or evidence that permits will not be required from the applicable resource agencies for projects within jurisdictional waters. Costs associated with obtaining these permits are eligible for reimbursement under the grant program.